

5. Judgment: The Final Destination of Discipleship (7:13-23)

Sermon on the Mount

1. In this final section, Jesus brings the sermon to the conclusion, where he focuses on the final destiny of discipleship. In v.13-14, what are some contrasts you notice between in the descriptions of the way to life and the way to destruction?
2. Why do you think the way to destruction is easy? Why do you think that the way to life is difficult and hard to find? (Think back on earlier parts of the sermon)
3. There is only one way to find and stay on the difficult path to life. It is based in the person who is leading you. Think of examples of leadership that will take us down the easy path. Do these examples include only very ungodly, worldly living or can it also include very religious leadership too? (look at v.21-23) In comparison, what sort of leader is Jesus and how does he keep us on the straight and narrow?
4. Jesus continues by warning us against false prophets who appear at first to look just like the sheep. How do we finally come to recognize and avoid the false prophets?
5. In this last section, Jesus appears to be judging others. What would you say is the ultimate difference between those he judges to be headed to life and those headed to destruction?
6. Jesus points out that those he rejects has nothing to do with lack of effort, religious piety, or powers to do miracles. He simply says to them, "I never knew you." What does this tell us about discipleship?

6. Closing: The Lasting Endurance of Discipleship (7:24-29)

1. In the final statement, v.24-27, Jesus compares two ways of dealing with his sermon. What does "building your house" really refer to?
2. What are the two ways of dealing with Jesus' preaching and what does his illustration teach us?
3. What is the crowd's reaction to the sermon and why? (v.28)
4. In the long run of Matthew's Gospel narrative, what do you think distinguishes the disciples who "follow" Jesus from the crowds who "follow" who Jesus? (See Matthew 28:16-20)

